equipment, upgradation of the existing network for improvement in services and active participation in the integrated services network.

Opening of STD services for private companies

†1747. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have opened the STD services for the private companies;

(b) if so, the impact on the financial position of Government companies of the same; and

(c) whether Government have given a consideration on the implication with regard to the internal security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to open the STD Service (long distance service) for private companies.

(b) There is no Government company/companies providing the service and hence the question does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Telephones in villages of Madhya Pradesh

1748. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly thirty thousand villages in Madhya Pradesh are without telephone facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date, district-wise and

(c) by when telephone facilities are likely to be provided in these villages of the state?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) 25,109 Villages in Madhya Pradesh are without telephone facilities as on 1.4.2000. District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement (*See below*)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) It is planned to provide all the remaining villages with telecom facility by March, 2002 with the joint efforts of private fixed service operator.

Statement

Sl.No.	SSA	DISTRICT	Villages in habited	Area	Balance Village
1.	Bhopal	Bhopal	611	BTNL	0
2.		Sehore	1011	BTNL	215
3.	Gwalior	Gwalior	706	BTNL	0
4.		Datia	402	BTNL	0
5.	Jabalpur	Jabalpur	2257	BTNL	490
6.	Ujjain	Ujjain	1092	BTNL	0
7.	Ratlam	Ratlam	1051	BTNL	67
8.	Jhabua	Jhabua	1313	BTNL	267
9.	Hoshangabad	Hoshangabad	1420	BTNL	282
10.	Dhar	Dhar	1487	BTNL	633
11.	Morena	Morena	1293	BTNL	225
12.		Bhind	877	BTNL	265
13.	Sagar	Sagar	1866	BTNL	692
14.		Mandla	2106	BTNL	1312
15.	Chhatarpur	Chhatarpur	1076	BTNL	481
16.		Tikamgarh	863	BTNL	423
17.		Damoh	1205	BTNL	713
18.	Satna	Satna	1784	BTNL	858
19.		Panna	939	BTNL	576
20.	Vidisha	Vidisha	1522	BTNL	354
21.	Raisen	Raisen	1429	BTNL	440
22.	Rajgarh	Rajgarh	1664	BTNL	616
23.	Dewas	Dewas	1058	BTNL	285
24.	Guna	Guna	2059	BTNL	753
25.	Shivpuri	Shivpuri	1326	BTNL	141
26.	Rewa	Rewa	2352	BTNL	1774
27.		Sidhi	1822	BTNL	1268

Sl.No.	SSA	DISTRICT	Villages in habited	Area	Balance Village
28.	Shahdol	Shahdol	1977	BTNL	1125
29.	Surguja	Sarguja	2414	BTNL	1850
		Total	**40884**	**0**	**16105**
1.	Baster	Baster	3670	DOT/DTS	2129
2.	Indore	Indore	624	DOT/DTS	0
3.	Khargone	Khargone	1884	DOT/DTS	120
4.	Mandsour	Mandsour	1575	DOT/DTS	0
5.	Khandwe	Khandwa	1060	DOT/DTS	0
6.	Balaghat	Balaghat	1269	DOT/DTS	151
7.	Narsinghpur	Narsinghpur	1040	DOT/DTS	37
8.	Saoni	Seoni	1585	DOT/DTS	397
9.	Chhindwara	Chhindwara	1903	DOT/DTS	137
10.	Betul	Betul	1328	DOT/DTS	0
11.	Shajapur	Shajapur	1068	DOT/DTS	0
12.	Bilaspur	Bilaspur	3501	DOT/DTS	1117
13.	Durg	Durg	1803	DOT/DTS	738
14.		Rajnandgaon	2273	DOT/DTS	1601
15.	Rajgarh	Rajgarh	2198	DOT/DTS	834
16.	Rajpur	Rajpur	3863	DOT/DTS	1743
		TOTAL	**30642**	**0**	**9004**

Telephone in rural areas of NER

1749. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to provide telephone connections in the rural areas of NER; and

(b) the time by which the telephone connections facilities are likely to be granted to all the villages and village Panchayats in NER?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Telephone connections are being provided at the places whereever demand is existing, from the nearest